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SIXTH COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation to the delegations for having elected him Chairman of the Sixth Committee and assured them that he would do his utmost to fulfil his task satisfactorily. From the beginning of his tenure on the Sixth Committee as the representative of Denmark, he had noticed the special atmosphere governing the Committee's work, the sense of devotion to the legal work of the United Nations and the spirit of cooperation between countries and the various political and social systems. No matter how troublesome and politically sensitive the matters allocated to the Committee had been, its debates had always been conducted in a decent manner, concentrating on the legal aspects of the issues and seeking a constructive outcome.

2. The end of the Cold War had helped to create the necessary conditions for improving legal cooperation between the States Members of the United Nations, and the United Nations Decade of International Law offered an excellent opportunity to move forward in the effort to develop further the international legal order. One shining example had been the Committee's elaboration and approval of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, during which time political will and legal expertise had been combined so constructively that the task had been completed in the short period of one year.

3. The Committee currently had before it another draft text, the statute for an international criminal court. Again, with sufficient political will, the Committee would be able to provide the necessary legal expertise and bring the project to a successful conclusion.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEUR

4. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of the consultations held concerning the election of the remaining members of the Bureau, Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki (Morocco) and Mr. Guillermo Camacho (Ecuador) had been nominated for the two offices of Vice-Chairman and Mr. Walid Obeidat (Jordan) had been nominated for the office of Rapporteur.

5. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Bellouki (Morocco) and Mr. Camacho (Ecuador) to the two offices of Vice-Chairman and Mr. Obeidat (Jordan) to the office of Rapporteur.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. LAMPTEY (Ghana) congratulated the Chairman and the other members of the Bureau on their election.

8. Mr. BELLOUKI (Morocco) congratulated the Chairman and his colleagues from Ecuador and Jordan on their election. He also expressed his appreciation to the Group of African States for having proposed him as a candidate for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JUDGE ROBERTO AGO AND PROFESSOR SUZANNE BASTID

9. The CHAIRMAN said, with great sorrow, that since the preceding session of the General Assembly two towering figures of international law had passed away: Judge Roberto Ago, who had been a member of the International Law Commission and a Judge of the International Court of Justice, and Professor Suzanne Bastid, who for many years had been President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence.

11. Mr. POLITI (Italy) said he wished to congratulate the Chairman and the other members of the Bureau on their election. Moreover, on behalf of his delegation and the entire Italian community of international jurists, he wished to express his appreciation for the tribute to the memory of Judge Roberto Ago.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.6/50/L.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the note by the Secretariat on the organization of work (A/C.6/50/L.1). Section II of the note listed the documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee and indicated the title, symbol and projected date of issuance of each document. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of section III contained the timetable for consideration of the items allocated to the Sixth Committee.

13. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed timetable on the understanding that it would be applied in a flexible manner depending on the progress of work.

14. It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to section IV of the note by the Secretariat, on the establishment of working groups. With regard to agenda item 140 (United Nations Decade of International Law), the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/50, had requested the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law to continue to work at the fiftieth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work. Consultations were still being held with regard to the election of the chairman of that Working Group.

16. Concerning agenda item 145 (Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization), the Special Committee, at its 1995 session, had invited the General Assembly to consider the establishment of an open-ended working group within the framework of the Sixth Committee, at the fiftieth session, with a view to considering, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 49/58, the issue of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

17. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the recommendation of the Special Committee.

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that there was general agreement on the election of Mrs. Maria del Luján Flores (Uruguay) as Chairman of that working group. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the election of Mrs. Flores as Chairman of the open-ended working group on the implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII.

20. The working groups would meet parallel to, but not simultaneously with, the Sixth Committee, taking advantage of the time not used by the Committee for its meetings. The schedule of meetings for the working groups would be determined by their chairmen, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sixth Committee.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.